



**LARRY PHILLIPS**  
Chair  
Metropolitan King County Council

May 13, 2005

Douglas B. MacDonald  
Transportation Secretary  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 47316  
Olympia WA 98504-7316

Dear Secretary MacDonald:

I am pleased that the state transportation budget recently passed by the legislature included funding to continue the momentum of the State Route 520 Bridge (SR 520) Replacement and HOV Project. This is an extraordinarily positive development for improving the region's mobility, and I look forward to doing my part to help secure regional funding for this project.

A replacement project of this magnitude requires careful planning to maximize opportunities to connect transportation hubs and address choke points. As you know from your service on the Sound Transit Board, Sound Transit has selected a preferred North Link light rail alignment that includes a station just south of Husky Stadium. **I would like to request that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) incorporate into the SR 520 replacement design a convenient transit connection and rider transfer point between SR 520 and the light rail station.**

Too often, timing, funding, and agency coordination issues prevent the type of comprehensive planning necessary for true big-picture thinking in transportation designs. Whether by integrating the Montlake community's design proposal into project plans or developing an alternative design, I hope WSDOT will take advantage of this opportunity to design a seamless transportation system that makes sense to future generations of commuters. With so many talented leaders, planners, and citizens involved in the SR 520 project, I am confident this can be accomplished.

Sincerely,

Larry Phillips, Chair  
Metropolitan King County Council  
Sound Transit Board Member

LP:lz

cc: SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Executive Committee  
SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Technical Steering Committee  
SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Project Advisory Committee  
Sound Transit Board  
Joni Earl, Chief Executive Officer, Sound Transit  
Montlake Community Council  
Maureen Sullivan, WSDOT Project Director